



**For Immediate Release:
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The Call to Save Water

Statewide Water Supply Crisis

Inland Empire - Yes, the State of California is in a drought! Last week the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced the results of their second snow survey this winter, indicating the Sierra snowpack, a primary source of water for the state, was just 61% of normal for the date. Last year at this time, the snowpack was 111% of normal, but the dry spring that followed resulted in a second consecutive dry year.

DWR Director Lester Snow says that these results combined with the low precipitation indicate that we are heading for a third dry year. “We may be at the start of the worst California drought in modern history. It’s imperative for Californians to conserve water immediately at home and in their businesses,” Snow said.

The state-wide water shortages are forcing Inland Empire water agencies to re-think their water strategy. In response to the serious water conditions facing California, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency today held a Drought Planning Workshop. “IEUA’s *draft* drought plan is being developed in cooperation with its retail water providers and all our cities,” stated IEUA’s Board President Terry Catlin. “The draft drought plan calls for efficient water use as well as the use of recycled water wherever possible. The truth is no one should be wasting water and by working together we hope to avoid and/or minimize water rationing,” added Catlin.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency plans on adopting its Drought Plan at its March 18th board meeting.

IEUA was formed in 1950 and is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). MWD imports water from the Colorado River and from northern California via the State Water Project. The Agency serves approximately 850,000 residents in the western portion of San Bernardino, including the cities of Chino, Upland, Montclair, Ontario, Chino Hills, Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana.

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